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March 8, 2005

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

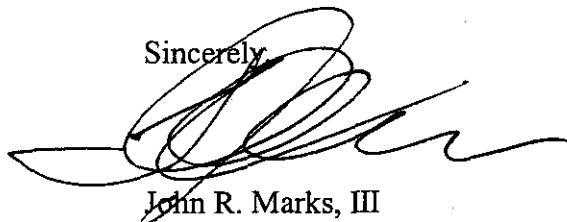
Dear Ms. Dortch:

05-50

I write this letter in support of the proposed merger between Alltel and Western Wireless. As a former commissioner of the Florida Public Service Commission and currently the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, it is my firm belief that this merger will be good for competition and therefore benefit the general body of telecommunication end-users. One of the most important issues related to quality communications, is effective and efficient deployment of advance wireless services. Mergers such as that between Alltel and Western Wireless will have a tremendous, positive impact on the deployment of advance technology. In addition, there will be a greater ability to procure, at reasonable prices, equipment and other accessories necessary for high speed wireless services. By expanding the combined companies' footprint there should be economies of scale that will benefit telecommunications users.

It is for the foregoing reasons that I support the proposed merger between Alltel and Western Wireless.

Sincerely,



John R. Marks, III

JRM/lcg

cc: James White